

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method for enhancing the sterilization of a lumen, said lumen having at least a first end and a second end, said method comprising:
enclosing said lumen and a container in a chamber, wherein said container has at least one interface on a wall of said container, wherein said container does not contain germicide, and wherein said lumen is placed across said at least one interface such that the first end of the lumen is in the container and the second end of the lumen is in the chamber;
introducing a germicide into said chamber;
creating a higher pressure in said chamber than in said container; and
flowing said germicide from said chamber into said container through said lumen.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising evacuating said chamber before introducing said germicide into said chamber.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising evacuating said chamber after flowing said germicide from said chamber into said container through said lumen.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising venting said chamber after flowing said germicide from said chamber into said container through said lumen.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said germicide comprises hydrogen peroxide.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said interface comprises at least one opening.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing the sterilization of a lumen, said lumen having at least a first end and a second end, said method comprising:
enclosing said lumen and a container in a chamber, wherein said container has at least one interface on a wall of said container, wherein said container does not contain germicide, and wherein said lumen is placed across said at least one interface such that the first end of the lumen is in the container and the second end of the lumen is in the chamber;
introducing a germicide into said chamber;
creating a higher pressure in said chamber than in said container;
flowing said germicide from said chamber into said container through said lumen; and
wherein said interface comprises at least one opening which ~~The method of Claim 6,~~
~~wherein said at least one opening~~ comprises a material ~~which~~ that is permeable to said germicide, whereby a contact area between said interface and said lumen is contacted with said germicide.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing the sterilization of a lumen, said lumen having at least a first end and a second end, said method comprising:
enclosing said lumen and a container in a chamber, wherein said container has at least one interface on a wall of said container, wherein said container does not contain germicide, and wherein said lumen is placed across said at least one interface such that the first end of the lumen is in the container and the second end of the lumen is in the chamber;
introducing a germicide into said chamber;
creating a higher pressure in said chamber than in said container;
flowing said germicide from said chamber into said container through said lumen; and
~~The method of Claim 6, further comprising~~ adjusting said at least one opening.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 6, further comprising evacuating said container through a communication port in said container, wherein said communication port is different from said at least one opening.

10. (currently amended) A system for sterilizing a lumen, said lumen having at least a first end and a second end, said system comprising:

a container defining an enclosed volume with at least one interface on a wall of said container, wherein said ~~container~~ enclosed volume does not contain germicide;
a chamber containing said container, wherein said lumen is placed across said at least one interface such that the first end of the lumen is in the container and the second end of the lumen is in the chamber;
at least one pump to evacuate the chamber and said container; and
a source of germicide.

11. (Original) The system of Claim 10, wherein the source of germicide is in said chamber or in an enclosure in fluid communication with said chamber.

12. (Original) The system of Claim 10, wherein said source of germicide comprises hydrogen peroxide.

13. (Original) The system of Claim 10, wherein said at least one interface comprises at least one opening.

14. (Currently Amended) A system for sterilizing a lumen, said lumen having at least a first end and a second end, said system comprising:

a container defining an enclosed volume with at least one interface on a wall of said container, wherein said enclosed volume does not contain germicide;

a chamber containing said container, wherein said lumen is placed across said at least one interface such that the first end of the lumen is in the container and the second end of the lumen is in the chamber;

at least one pump to evacuate the chamber and said container;

a source of germicide; and

wherein said at least one interface comprises at least one opening and ~~The system of Claim 13, wherein~~ said at least one opening comprises a material which is permeable to germicide generated from said source of germicide, wherein said material is located at least in a contact area between said at least one interface and said lumen.

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15. (Currently Amended) A system for sterilizing a lumen, said lumen having at least a first end and a second end, said system comprising:

a container defining an enclosed volume with at least one interface on a wall of said container, wherein said enclosed volume does not contain germicide;

a chamber containing said container, wherein said lumen is placed across said at least one interface such that the first end of the lumen is in the container and the second end of the lumen is in the chamber;

at least one pump to evacuate the chamber and said container;

a source of germicide;

wherein said at least one interface comprises at least one opening; and

~~The system of Claim 13,~~ wherein said container further comprises a communication port in fluid communication with said at least one pump, wherein said communication port is different from said at least one opening.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 13, wherein said at least one opening is adjustable.

Claims 17-44 (canceled)